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EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW
(VENICE COMMISSION)

**UNIDEM
CAMPUS TRIESTE SEMINAR**

**“THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE AND THE EUROPEAN UNION :
SHARED VALUES AND STANDARDS”**

20 - 23 June 2011

**Council of the Regione Friuli Venezia Giulia
Sala De Rinaldini
Piazza Oberdan 5
Trieste, Italy**

SYNOPSIS

The UNIDEM Campus Trieste is the Venice Commission's programme of legal training for civil servants. The last of three seminars in 2011 took place in Trieste from 20 to 23 June 2011 on the topic "***The Council of Europe and the European Union : Shared Values and Standards***".

The seminar brought together 26 civil servants from ministries, parliaments and courts dealing with matters relating to cooperation with the European Union and the Council of Europe from 13 European countries¹ (financed by the Region Friuli-Venezia Giulia). Two civil servants from Tunisia also participated (financed by a voluntary contribution from the Government of Turkey for co-operation with Tunisia).

During the training, the participants heard lectures given by leading European experts in this field and explored various aspects of this field through specific workshops. The event aimed at highlighting the co-operation of countries with the European Union and the Council of Europe and at an exchange of information on the situation and experiences in the countries of the participants with respect to various aspects of European Integration.

The seminar began with a lecture on *the role and contribution of the Venice Commission to the EU Integration Process and the EU Neighbourhood Policy*. The day continued with a lecture on *European Integration without European Union Membership*, which was followed by an extended question and answer session dealing with the participants' experiences with handling the EU Acquis. The day closed with a practical exercise in a workshop dealing with *Elections: European Case-Law and Standards*.

The seminar continued the second day with a lecture on *the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) as an example of a Council of Europe monitoring body*. A lively workshop on the same subject then took place with the participants working on the resolution of a case. The participants then listened to a lecture on *The EU Enlargement process: from Candidacy to Accession*. A workshop followed on *The EU Enlargement process: lessons learned and the post-opinion follow-up process for Montenegro*. A workshop was then held on how to train others ("Training the trainers") whereby the participants discussed various forms of possible follow-up initiatives to be organised upon their return in order for them to pass on the knowledge they acquired during this seminar to their colleagues.

The third day of the seminar opened with a film on the Council of Europe. A lecture and a discussion then followed on the topic of *the Council of Europe and European Union working together: challenges and perspectives*. The last intervention (lecture and workshop) dealt with : *Relations with the EU: Experiences of a Candidate Country*.

Representatives of the Region Friuli-Venezia Giulia addressed the participants on the last day of the seminar, during which, they, *inter alia*, reiterated their support for the UniDem programme.

On the fourth day, part of the morning session was devoted to national presentations during which a number of participants had the opportunity to present the specific experience of their respective countries with respect to cooperation with the EU and the Council of Europe i.e. those of Bulgaria, Azerbaijan, Serbia, Georgia and Romania. Several participants asked specific questions during the very interesting presentations.

The written reports related to the lectures will be available shortly on the Venice Commission's web site.

¹ Armenia, Azerbaijan, Albania, Belarus, Bulgaria, Croatia, Georgia, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia and Ukraine.